



This Reader's Theater has five parts. The instructor will invite five students to read the story, following the assigned numbers. For the ideal "chorus" effect, the readers will be spaced out in the room. Invite these five children to read without looking away from the page to keep a steady rhythm. The others will listen attentively.

5 parts: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- 1 Eli.
 - 2 My name is Eli.
 - 3 I am the high priest at the Temple of Shiloh.
 - 4 I've been here for a long time.
 - 5 Very long.
 - 2 Very long.
 - 1 I'm old.
 - 3 My eyesight's not as good as it used to be.
 - 4 I'm so tired.
 - 1 I'm so old.
 - 5 I don't hear God's voice anymore.
 - 2 Does God always speak to us?
 - 4 I don't hear him anymore!
 - 1 Silence from God.
 - 5 Silence at night.
 - 3 Silence...
 - 2 I'm going to bed!
- pause*
- 1 Samuel.
 - 4 My name is Samuel.
 - 2 I'm a servant of the Lord in the Temple.
 - 5 I've been here since I was very little.
 - 3 For a very long time.
 - 4 It feels like forever.
 - 2 With Eli.

- 5 I don't know the Lord.
 - 1 I've never heard his voice.
 - 3 Does God really speak to us?
 - 1 Silence from God.
 - 4 Silence at night.
 - 2 Silence...
 - 5 I'm going to bed!
- pause*

- 3 Eli is in his room.
 - 2 Samuel is in the Lord's Temple.
 - 5 Eli is alone in the silence.
 - 4 Samuel is close to God.
 - 1 The lamp is on.
 - 3 The lamp of God.
 - 2 God's light.
 - 1 God's presence among men.
- pause*

- 4 It's nighttime.
- 3 The night is silent.
- 5 Eli is sleeping.
- 1 A voice whispers in the darkness...
- 5 Samuel!
- 2 Yes?
- 1 Samuel!
- 3 Who's speaking?
- 1 Samuel!
- 5 I'm here!

- 4 Anyone there?
- 3 Who's speaking?
- 2 Eli!
- 4 Eli!
- 1 Eli, are you asleep?
- 5 Did you call my name?
- 3 No!
- 4 No, it wasn't me.
- 2 Samuel, my little one, go to bed.
- 3 It's nighttime.
- 4 The night is silent.

- 1 In the silence, a voice rings out...
- 2 Samuel!
- 3 Samuel!
- 4 Yes, I'm here!
- 5 Who's speaking?
- 4 Eli, are you calling my name?

- 2 No, I already told you, it's not me!
 - 5 Samuel, my little one, go to bed.
 - 3 It's still nighttime.
 - 4 In the silence of the night.
 - 1 Samuel falls asleep by the lamp of God.
- pause*

- 5 Samuel! Samuel!
 - 3 Eli, I'm here!
 - 2 What do you want? I didn't call your name.
 - 4 But I heard you say, "Samuel, Samuel..."
- pause*

- 1 Eli thinks about this.
 - 3 Who speaks at night?
 - 2 Hmm, the lamp of God has been lit all night.
 - 5 What if it was God?
 - 4 What if God was speaking in the silence of the night...
 - 2 Samuel, go back to bed.
 - 1 And if you hear your name.
 - 5 Get up and say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!"
 - 1 It's the Lord who is calling you.
 - 3 Listen to his voice.
 - 2 Open your heart to his words.
- 4 The Lord calls.
 - 2 The lamp shines in the darkness.
 - 5 The Lord is there.
 - 1 The flame brings warmth to Samuel's heart.
 - 3 Samuel, have courage!
 - 5 I am your Lord!
 - 2 You are my child, and I love you.
 - 1 Samuel, listen to my words.
 - 5 Bring my Word to mankind.
 - 3 Samuel, I will be with you every day of your life!
- 4 Samuel grew up.
 - 5 The Lord was with him.
 - 1 Samuel, prophet of the Lord!
 - 3 Servant of God's Covenant with mankind.